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ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A sample carrier comprises a structural array and a plurality of sample nodes. Each of the plurality of sample nodes is removably attached to the structural array at a respective attachment point, and is operative to carry a discrete sample which may be biological, including proteins, polynucleotides, and DNA, or non-biological. Embodiments are disclosed wherein the sample carrier comprises a plurality of structural arrays, which may be supported in a predetermined spatial relationship relative to a respective sample container, such as a respective well of a multi-well plate. A system and method of transferring specimens to sample carriers include contacting the plurality of sample nodes to the specimen. Various alternatives are disclosed wherein the specimen is solid, gaseous, and liquid in form.